

Message Text

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ORIGIN STR-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-09

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DRAFTED BY STR:HWILLIAMS:JT

APPROVED BY STR:WKELLY

STR:KGUENTHER

ITC:JBOYD (SUBS)

STATE:MGLITMAN (SUBS)

TREASURY:EGREEN (SUBS)

COMMERCE:LFOX (SUBS)

TREASURY:JRAY (SUBS)

LABOR:GVERNON (SUBS)

USDA:RGOODMAN- EUR/RPE:AALBRECHT

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O 210013Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL MTN GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: MTN AGRICULTURE GROUP MEETING 3/24/75

MTN GENEVA PASS A.WOLFF

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1. PROBLEM: THE TNC AT ITS FEBRUARY MEETING ESTABLISHED SIX WORK GROUPS INCLUDING AN AGRICULTURE GROUP. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN SUMMING UP THE FEBRUARY TNC MEETING STATED "IF IN OTHER GROUPS QUESTIONS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO

CONCERN AGRICULTURE ARE TAKEN UP, THE AGRICULTURE GROUP SHALL CONCERN ITSELF WITH THE AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS." THE SECRETARIAT, IN AIRGRAM 1149 SUGGESTED AN AGENDA FOR THE UPCOMING AGRICULTURE GROUP MEETING. ITEMS 2B AND 2C SUGGEST THAT THE GROUP AT ITS MARCH 24 MEETING WILL DECIDE ON WHAT PRODUCTS, PRODUCT SECTORS OR PROBLEMS ON WHICH NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD FIRST BE INITIATED AND THAT PROCEDURES ALLOWING PRODUCTS OR PROBLEMS NOT IN THE INITIAL LIST TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. THESE STATEMENTS REFLECT IN LARGE MEASURE THE EC POSITION THAT AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS, INCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS, SHOULD BE DELEGATED TO THE AGRICULTURE GROUP. THE U.S. DOES NOT WANT A SEPARATE AGRICULTURE GROUP TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE. OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS AND THE BASIS FOR A COMPROMISE WERE SET FORTH IN AN EXCHANGE OF CABLES BETWEEN MALMGREN IN GENEVA AND SEIDMAN ON FEBRUARY 12 (GENEVA 902 STATE 32200).

3. THE UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE COMPROMISE IS NOT REFLECTED IN THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S SUMMING UP OF THE FEBRUARY TNC MEETING NOR IN THE SECRETARIAT'S SUGGESTED AGENDA FOR THE AGRICULTURE GROUP MEETING BEGINNING MARCH 24, 1975.

4. THE U.S. AND EC ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT BOTH PARTIES COULD INTERPRET CHAIRMAN'S SUMMATION IN A MANNER NOT PREJUDICING EACH PARTY'S OWN POSITION. THE U.S. AND EC AGREED TO MAKE CONCLUDING STATEMENTS IN EFFECT PRESERVING POSITIONS IN AREAS OF AMBIGUITY WHICH MIGHT ARISE WHILE AGREEING TO LET NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN WITHOUT PROVOKING MAJOR CONFRONTATION AT OUTSET (GENEVA 972)

5. IT IS OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE THAT OUR POSITION IN THE AGRICULTURE GROUP FOLLOW THE LATEST EPB INSTRUCTIONS SO AS TO GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRUCTURE AND FRAME OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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REFERENCE IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THEY DO NOT JEOPARDIZE THE ATTAINMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVE.

U.S. POSITION

6. IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE EPB INSTRUCTIONS AND TO MAINTAIN OUR POSITION ON AGRICULTURE IN THE MTN, WE SHOULD TAKE THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ON THE AGENDA ITEMS:

A. DETERMINATION OF PRODUCTS OR PRODUCT SECTORS OR PROBLEMS ON WHICH THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD FIRST BE INITIATED.

1. THE U.S. DELEGATION SHOULD MAINTAIN THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO AGREEMENT REACHED THAT THE AGRICULTURE GROUP SHOULD BE A NEGOTIATING BODY. THE U.S. POSITION IS THAT AGRICULTURAL ISSUES WILL BE NEGOTIATED PRIMARILY, IF NOT ENTIRELY, IN THE TARIFF AND NONTARIFF MEASURES GROUPS.

2. SHOULD STRESS THAT WE ARE CURRENTLY AT A STAGE WHERE SUBSTANTIVE WORK IN THE OVERALL NEGOTIATING BODIES (TARIFF AND NTMS) OF THE MTN CAN GO FORWARD.

3. THAT IN THIS WORK WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON PRIORITY PROBLEMS.

4. WE HAVE MADE AN EXCELLENT START IN THIS DIRECTION. THE NTM GROUP IDENTIFIED 11 PRIORITY AREAS. FOUR SUB-GROUPS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AND WILL BEGIN A SERIES OF MEETINGS; STARTING IN APRIL TO BEGIN WORK ON THESE PROBLEMS.

5. THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT THE PRIORITY PROBLEM WITH REGARD TO TARIFFS IS TO DEVELOP A GENERAL FORMULA AND THAT SUCH FORMULA SHOULD APPLY TO BOTH AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS. THE ARGUMENTS FOR TRADE LIBERALIZATION IN AGRICULTURE ARE AS COMPELLING AS THEY ARE IN THE INDUSTRIAL AREA.

6. STRESS THAT THE PRIORITY PROBLEMS DELINEATED IN THE TARIFF AND NTM GROUPS COVER ALL PRODUCTS -- AGRICULTURAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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AND INDUSTRIAL. IT IS THEREFORE NOT NECESSARY TO SPECIFY PRODUCTS AT THIS TIME. AT A LATER STAGE IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC PRODUCTS HAVING SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS WHICH REQUIRE DISCUSSION.

7. WHAT THEN SHOULD THE AGRICULTURE GROUP DISCUSS?

A. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT WE SHOULD NOT TAKE ACTIONS THAT WOULD IMPEDE PROGRESS IN THE NTM AND TARIFF GROUPS. MOREOVER, WE FEEL THAT AT THIS MEETING, AS WE BEGIN TO DEVELOP A STRUCTURE AND FRAMEWORK FOR THE GROUP'S OPERATION WE SHOULD MAINTAIN MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY SO THAT WE DO NOT FORECLOSE THE CONSIDERATION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES NOR PROCEDURES THAT WOULD CAUSE US TO FALL SHORT OF THE OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

B. WE FEEL THAT THIS GROUP SHOULD, IN THE MAIN, ANALYZE THE SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND CHARACTERISTICS THAT WOULD COMPLEMENT AND SUPPORT THE WORK BEING CARRIED FORTH IN THE TARIFF AND NONTARIFF MEASURES GROUPS. THIS WORK COULD PROCEED WITHIN THE AGRICULTURE GROUP AND IN JOINT

SESSIONS WITH OTHER GROUPS.

C. ONE SPECIAL PROBLEM THAT COMES IMMEDIATELY TO MIND IS THAT OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY REGULATIONS. DURING THE PREPARATORY PHASE STUDY OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY REGULATIONS WAS UNDERTAKEN IN THE AGRICULTURE GROUP. PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THE ANALYSIS OF THIS ISSUE. AT THE "WRAP-UP" MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURE GROUP PRELIMINARY COMMENTS WERE MADE ON EXCELLENT SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED AT THAT MEETING. SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE AS TO FUTURE WORK. GIVEN THE STATUS OF THIS WORK AND THE NTM GROUP DISCUSSION RELATING TO THE NEED FOR AGRICULTURE GROUP WORK ON HEALTH AND SANITARY REGULATIONS, WE SHOULD PROPOSE THAT THE AGRICULTURE GROUP FORM A JOINT WORKING PARTY WITH THE STANDARDS SUBGROUP TO WORK ON THIS MATTER.

D. WITH REGARD TO OTHER WORK, THE AGRICULTURE GROUP WOULD CONSIDER ONLY THOSE MATTERS THAT ARE DETERMINED TO REQUIRE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION AFTER DISCUSSION
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IN THE TARIFF AND NTM GROUPS. THEREFORE, IT IS PREMATURE FOR THE AGRICULTURE GROUP TO BEGIN BY DETERMINING WHAT PRODUCTS, PRODUCTS SECTORS IT WILL STUDY. IF COUNTRIES WISH TO BRING UP FUNCTIONAL MATTERS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN REFERRED TO THE GROUP, WE COULD AGREE TO THE GROUP UNDERTAKING WORK TO DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS AND CHARACTERISTICS THAT ARE PECULIAR TO AGRICULTURE AND FOR WHICH SPECIAL CONSIDERATION MAY BE REQUIRED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF JOINT FUNCTIONAL WORKING PARTIES. FALLBACK POSITION: IF SUCH A MATTER IS BROUGHT UP AND THERE IS WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT THAT A PROBLEM OR CHARACTERISTIC WHICH IS PECULIAR TO AGRICULTURE EXIST, THE U.S. DELEGATION MAY AGREE TO THE FORMATION OF SUCH A JOINT FUNCTIONAL WORKING PARTY AT THIS TIME.

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURES ALLOWING PRODUCTS OR PROBLEMS NOT IN THE INITIAL LIST TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

8. WE BELIEVE THE PROCEDURES OUTLINED ABOVE IN A ARE SUFFICIENT TO COVER ALL PRIORITY PROBLEMS, INCLUDING PRODUCTS AND PRODUCT SECTORS. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THIS GROUP WOULD NOT PRECLUDE ANY COUNTRY FROM RAISING FOR DISCUSSION ANY PRODUCT IT FEELS DESERVES SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.

C. THE FALLBACK POSITION

9. THE FOREGOING REPRESENTS THE U.S. INITIAL POSITION. HOWEVER, PERSISTENCE IN THIS POSITION COULD LEAVE THE U.S. ISOLATED AT THIS MEETING AND THE ONUS WOULD BE ON US FOR DELAYING THE NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS CERTAIN THAT THERE WILL BE SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHING SUBGROUPS. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT NEW ZEALAND WILL PROPOSE THAT DAIRY AND MEATS SUBGROUPS BE ESTABLISHED AS NEGOTIATING BODIES. CANADA AND AUSTRALIA WILL SUPPORT THE FORMATION OF SUBGROUPS. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT NEW ZEALAND WOULD NOT PRESS FOR ESTABLISHING THESE SUBGROUPS AT THIS TIME PROVIDING THERE WAS AN EXPLICIT UNDERSTANDING THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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THESE GROUPS COULD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

10. THE FOLLOWING FALLBACK POSITION SHOULD BE UTILIZED, BUT ONLY AFTER IT BECOMES EVIDENT THAT WE ARE ISOLATED ON THE POSITION OUTLINED ABOVE.

11. A. WE COULD AGREE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DAIRY, MEATS, AND SUGAR SUBGROUPS PROVIDED THESE GROUPS WERE FORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPLEMENTING THE WORK IN THE TARIFF AND NTM GROUPS AND DID NOT MEET UNTIL AFTER THE NTM SUBGROUP MEETINGS ARE COMPLETED IN JUNE.

B. STRONGLY PROPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT WORKING GROUPS ON FUNCTIONAL ISSUES BETWEEN THE AGRICULTURE GROUP AND THE TARIFF AND NTM GROUPS. IN FORMING THESE JOINT WORKING PARTIES THE AGRICULTURE GROUP WOULD APPOINT EXPERTS TO WORK JOINTLY WITH THE APPROPRIATE TARIFF OR NTM SUBGROUP. THE EXPERT GROUP, APPOINTED BY THE AGRICULTURE GROUP, COULD, AS APPROPRIATE, REPORT PROGRESS AND RESULTS TO THAT BODY.

C. WE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO ESTABLISHMENT GRAINS GROUP AT THIS TIME. AS WE INFORMED EC (STATE 57274), WE BELIEVE GRAINS QUESTION MUST BE DEALT WITH BY MTN BUT URGENT ISSUE IS ESTABLISHMENT INTERNATIONAL GRAIN RESERVES SYSTEM AS CALLED FOR BY WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. WE BELIEVE THIS CAN BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED UNDER IWC WHERE USSR PARTICIPATES. THIS IN NO WAY PREVENTS MTN FROM DEALING WITH LARGER GRAINS QUESTION. DELEGATION SHOULD THEREFORE REPEAT ARGUMENTS DETAILED STATE 57274.

D. WE WOULD SEEK NEW ZEALAND'S ACCEPTANCE AND AGREE-
MENT THAT IT WILL ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE INSELLING THIS
APPROACH (JOINT WORKING GROUPS) TO OTHER DELEGATIONS.

D. ESTABLISHMENT OF A CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE AGRICULTURE GROUP SHOULD BE

SCHUDLED IN RELATION TO THE CALENDARS FOR THE TARIFF
AND NTM GROUPS, SO AS TO MAKE POSSIBLE THE INTERACTION
DESCRIBED ABOVE.
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E. THE SECRETARIAT'S AGENDA SUGGESTS THAT DELEGATIONS
COULD DEFINE WITH SOME PRECISION THEIR INITIAL POSITIONS
ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS OR PRODUCT SECTORS SO THAT ISSUES
ON WHICH THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEAR LATER MIGHT BE
IDENTIFIED. THIS SUGGESTION APPEARS TO OPEN THE DOOR
FOR DELEGATIONS (ESPECIALLY THE EC) TO LAY OUT THEIR
POSITION REGARDING AGRICULTURE WHICH COULD PREJUDICE THE
FRAME OF REFERENCE FOR THE AGRICULTURE GROUP. THE U.S.
POSITION IS THAT AGRICULTURAL ISSUES WILL BE NEGOTIATED
PRIMARILY, IF NOT ENTIRELY, IN THE TARIFF AND NTM
GROUPS. INGERSOLL

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